



U.S. Department of Justice

National Institute of Corrections

Washington, D.C. 20534

February 14, 2017

MARKET RESEARCH

Call for NIC Technical Assistance Providers - NIC Technical Assistance Offerings for Medication Assisted Treatment Programs for Justice-Involved Populations.

Deadline: February 28, 2017

The National Institute of Corrections (NIC) is conducting market research and seeks individuals with demonstrated experience in successful planning, implementing, training and evaluating of Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) programs for justice-involved populations in community, jails, and prison settings. *Responding to this information request does not constitute any binding agreement between the respondent and the United States Government.*

The MAT technical assistance effort will support work being done by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), which is working to identify and cultivate Centers of Innovation (COIs) as laboratories for promising practices. This work includes developing and disseminating a self-guided assessment tool for the field; providing specialized technical assistance and training; and coordinating with NIC and professional associations and networks to promote MAT, consistent with the needs of the field.

BACKGROUND

The heroin and prescription opioid epidemic is one of the most urgent law enforcement and public health challenges facing our country. The Department of Health and Human Services recently announced that 3.8 million people ages 12 and older are currently misusing prescription pain relievers in our country. In 2014, more than sixty percent of the 47,000 drug overdose deaths in America involved opioids, reflecting a dramatic increase over the past two decades.¹

NIC is working collaboratively with the Executive Office of the President, Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) to support the identification of comprehensive MAT strategies in support of state, local, and tribal correctional agencies to address high-risk opioid use disorders among offenders transitioning from

¹ <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr.department-justice-releases-strategy-memo-address-prescription-opioid-heroin-epidemic> Sept. 24.2016

institutions to the community. NIC is designing responsive technical assistance, training, and peer learning vehicles to assist counties in response to the national opioid epidemic.

To address this challenge, NIC, BJA, and ONDCP met with key stakeholders to identify strategies develop priorities. The following objectives were established: enhance identification and distribution of evidenced based practices, conduct technical assistance and training, and develop COIs. Two promising practice guideline documents are currently under development: one addressing the establishment of prison and jail MAT programs and the other addressing MAT programming for justice-involved populations at all criminal justice intercept points. Both sets of guidelines are based on the latest research and standards formulated by expert practitioners from the fields of medicine, substance use disorder treatment, and criminal justice.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OFFERINGS FOR CUSTODIAL MAT PROGRAMS

To assist jails and prisons plan, develop, and implement MAT programs, NIC will support access to Centers for Innovation featuring peer to peer training at model programs, as well as offer on-site technical assistance in the following three areas of custodial MAT development and implementation:

1) Planning

Technical assistance providers to assist the jails/prisons identify the individuals and agencies that should come together, as well as the common challenges that should be addressed for the successful development of a jail/prison MAT program. While each correctional facility and the jurisdictions into which incarcerated individuals will be released differ, successful MAT programming requires the same constellation of individuals and agencies involved in the planning process. Specific roles will vary site to site.

For example, all successful programs must develop a means for financing post-release medication. While this is facilitated in Medicaid expansion states, even in these states, state Medicaid may require inhibiting preconditions before approval is given for specific medications like injectable naltrexone or buprenorphine administered by sublingual films. Though most facilities provide some medical services, the FDA approved medications require additional medical screening that may impact correctional healthcare budgets separate and apart from the costs of the medication. While security may be involved in preventing contraband entering the facility, the challenges posed by agonist medications dispensed within the institution requires the development of a different set of policies, procedures, and practices to both guard against diversion and ensure the safety of participants administered the medication.

Qualifications of Technical Assistance Providers:

The technical assistance provider must be acquainted with various current models of successful MAT programs in jails and prisons in different jurisdictions, including programs providing access to all of the FDA approved medications for substance and alcohol use disorders, even if

the facility requesting assistance initially is not planning to provide access to all of these medications.

Ideally, the provider should have prior experience working directly with jails/prisons in developing and implementing MAT programs. Minimally, the technical assistance provider must be familiar with current standards for correctional MAT programming.

2) Implementation and Training

Technical assistance providers to assist prison/jail implement the MAT program after planning has been completed, and the program and all its components must be rolled out to correctional security, treatment, medical and aftercare personnel required to implement the program. This technical assistance may include assisting the facility in developing and implementing training programs for personnel.

Qualifications of Technical Assistance Providers:

Given the different facets of MAT programming, different technical assistance providers may be necessary to provide more in-depth assistance in specific areas, including: (1) medical screening and medication administration; (2) education about the FDA approved medication and how to present this information to inmates as well basic health literacy that will be needed for them to continue in treatment post-release; (3) enrolling inmates into Medicaid and financing of continued treatment post-release; (4) developing appropriate security procedures and defining the role of correctional officers in facilitating MAT programming; (5) development of post-release network of treatment and medical providers in the communities where individuals will reside post-release; and (6) development of performance measures and data collections systems to ensure programs are achieving intended results. The TA provider should have extensive and current knowledge and familiarity with; opioid treatment program (OTP) accreditation process as designated by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; the multilateral oversight system for treatment medications; and federal legislation, regulations, and guidelines for MAT, including the Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 and federal regulation 42 CFR 8.

3) Evaluating Programs, Ensuring Fidelity to Models

Technical assistance providers to assist in the development of metrics and data needed to providing on-going, timely feedback on the MAT program to ensure that it is (1) implemented with fidelity, (2) adheres to any professional standards that exist or are developed by accrediting authorities, and (3) achieving desired results for the population served and immediate course adjustments are made as needed. For example, the prison/jail MAT program may be operating well, but once released there may be critical gaps in medication or treatment continuity that is undermining the recovery. Or, in another example, the data may reveal that the program is only reaching a small proportion of potentially eligible individuals who could benefit from participation.

Qualifications of Technical Assistance Providers:

The TA provider should have experience in identifying the basic data necessary and means to analyze that data that will allow programs to determine their progress and challenges in real time. This is different than the skills needed to conduct comprehensive evaluations but more important for program implementation. The technical assistance provider must be familiar with prison/jail MAT programs and be able to identify common output measures that reveal the efficacy of program functioning in custodial settings. The technical assistance provider should be familiar with parole/probation and community-based MAT programming and substance use order treatment. Finally, the technical assistance provider must be able to both identify challenges, opportunities, and gaps in MAT programs and provide concrete recommendations to address them based on the technical assistance provider's knowledge of how similar situations have been resolved in other jail/prison MAT programs.

HOW TO APPLY

Send a current résumé or vitae, in Word or PDF format, to samos@bop.gov no later than February 28, 2017. Please include the following in the subject line of your e-mail: "MAT Technical Assistance Offerings." Your résumé or vitae should include:

- Full name
- Education (list all college degrees, institution, and dates)
- All professional position titles, descriptions, and dates in chronological order beginning with, or going back to, your first position after obtaining your bachelor's degree
- A detailed description of your current and past organizational affiliation(s) with position title and related experience
- Telephone numbers (work and home)
- Mailing addresses (work and home)
- E-mail address
- Submission of a writing sample not to exceed 1,500 words as to why you are qualified to serve as a TA provider, indicating in ranked order which technical assistance offerings (Planning; Implementation and Training; and Evaluating Programs, Ensuring Fidelity to Models) best suit your skill set

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you require additional information or have questions about résumé or vitae requirements, please contact Stephen Amos, NIC's Jails Division Chief, at samos@bop.gov or (202) 307-5811.